

## National Child Abuse Prevention Month 2023 – Op-Ed Template

### Intro Text

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is an opportunity to educate and raise awareness about the importance of preventing child maltreatment in communities. These prevention efforts multiply in effectiveness when they reach wider audiences.

Help us spread the word about National Child Abuse Prevention Month in your community by using this op-ed template. Use it as written and input the local facts and statistics that are most relevant to your audience or adapt your own article and tailor it for your own community needs. For more data and information about child abuse and neglect and prevention, see the additional resources below.

### Op-ed template

A reported 1,820 children died from abuse and neglect in the United States in federal fiscal year 2021, according to the [latest national data](#). Child protective services investigated or responded to almost 4 million allegations of child maltreatment across the country, and a total 600,000 children were found to be victims of child maltreatment. **[Insert local data if available.]**

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This initiative is rooted in communities working together to serve children and their families in meaningful, impactful ways that provide families what they need to thrive through both calm and challenging times.

Each year, we educate and raise awareness about the impact child abuse has on children and society. Providing information about best practices that are known to build parental capacity through protective factors is key in helping families become more resilient.

Protective factors are conditions or attributes that mitigate or eliminate risk and can increase the health and well-being of children and families. They provide parents with the tools they need to parent effectively even under stress. Major protective factors include knowledge of parenting, knowledge of child development, parental resilience, social connections, and concrete supports.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is more than just raising awareness about the reality of child maltreatment. It's about taking action to reduce it. **[Insert community name]** can join in this national effort by providing our families with the support they need. There are certain issues, such as a family's neighborhood, income level, or other societal factors that can make parenting more challenging. By reducing these vulnerabilities through strengths-based approaches that truly support families, we can begin to mitigate child maltreatment and improve the outcomes of children, youth, and families.

To make child abuse less likely to occur, we need to invest in our community and our families. In **[insert community name]**, consider partnering with family and strength-based focused organizations and programs. **[Insert information about concrete supports available in your community, organizations that support families, or other relevant local information.]**

All children deserve to grow up in safe, supportive environments. This National Child Abuse Prevention Month, help make this possible by supporting families and spreading the word about the importance of

child abuse prevention. For more information and resources, visit the [National Child Abuse Prevention Month website](#). Together, we can end child abuse and neglect.

**Additional resources**

[\*Child Maltreatment 2021\*](#)

[\*2023/2024 Prevention Resource Guide\*](#)

[\*Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect\*](#)